

SURGE AND OVERCAPACITY OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

Considerations in a surge and overcapacity situation:

Cancel all elective admissions to include surgical procedures (This is required in an overcapacity situation)

Establish an on site day care for employees children- If you do not charge for the service, there is no requirement to be licensed by the Department of Health Services

Review physical plant for alternative care sites within the licensed facility to place patients on a temporary basis. The areas need to be able to meet patient needs and safety with the appropriate staffing and supplies.

- Transition offices and storage areas that were patient rooms and remain on the hospital license as patient rooms
- Post Anesthesia Care Units;
- Endoscopy Suites;
- Outpatient Treatment areas
- Outpatient Single Group Licensed space
- Outpatient Surgical Centers associated with the hospital license

Establish a mobile onsite medical screening area

Educate and advertise Urgent Care Centers within the community as an alternative healthcare delivery sites prior to presenting to the facility

Activate all Discharge Planning resources

Utilize alternative personnel resources

- EMTs according the scope of practice of the EMTs
- Sharing of staff among facility types

Contact all Specialty Hospitals for assistance with patient admissions and transfers

Utilize employed physicians to open assessment/treatment areas within the facility or in outpatient service areas

Contact Private Physicians who are on staff at the hospital requesting that they expand their hours of operations to accept more walk-in appointments

Mobilize volunteer teams

Develop and implement specific volunteer teams trained to be available in a surge/overcapacity situation

Update the EMS system for accurate information regarding the bed availability and status of the emergency services